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Biological
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Serials

Ophthalmic Literature

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Vol. VI. AUGUST, 1916 No. 8

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PRICE FIVE DOLLARS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

Published Monthly by EDWARD JACKSON, 318 Majestic Building, Denver, Colorado, U. S. A.

Entered as second-class matter November 6, 1912, at the Postoffice at Denver, Colorado, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Herrick Book and Stationery Company

934 15th Street Denver, Colorado

Ophthalmic Literature

VOL. VI. AUGUST, 1916. NO. 8.

Edited by EDWARD JACKSON. Assisted by WILLIAM H. CRISP.

A BLOCKADE OF SCIENCE.

With a single exception, no German ophthalmic journal has been received at this office for over three months. The Index Medicus, after many months of thinned numbers, announces it will publish a joint number for July and August, and that "all the literature in the German periodicals accessible to date will be included in this number." Here and there a stray journal has been received somewhere in the United States, and its contents get into the Index of Ophthalmology in a round about way.

In answer to inquiries a British official of high authority writes: "Concerning the prohibition of German scientific periodicals, monographs, etc., I understand that it is likely to continue. I am sorry, but war is war, and it has been discovered that these importations were used as a means of conveying information secretly." In support of this view a well-known ophthalmologist states: "I know of at least one instance where an apparently innocent and specially scientific publication regularly made use of its pages for conveying German Intelligence Office matters to agents here in America."

We must come to realize war is necessarily and directly opposed to those international relations upon which science and other vital interests of civilization rest. If this is truly a "war against war" success in accomplishing that purpose may justify it; but nothing else can. Even that outcome, like other changes supposed to come from war, will rest as much upon the negotiations after the fighting is finished as upon the war itself.

BOOK NOTICES.

Transactions of the Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society, Fourth Annual Meeting, 1916. 8vo, 112 pages. Published by the Society, Portland, Oregon.

This Society is to be congratulated on the creditable transactions it can show for its fourth annual meeting; and the energy of the editor, Dr. R. A. Fenton, in getting them published within two months of the time the meeting was held. About one-half of its pages are occupied with papers and discussions belonging to ophthalmology. The other part of the volume is devoted to papers that interest the otologist and rhinologist; and the list of officers and members. The active membership numbers 192, of whom some 41 took part in the discussions. As a book this is defective, in that it lacks any table of contents or subject index. It would have made a much better showing if reasonably large print and a less crowded page had been used. But so many books come to us exhibiting the results of an effort to make a small amount of thought occupy a large area of good paper, that it is a relief to have the opportunity to criticize one for going to the opposite extreme.

Annual Report of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, 1915. 4vo. 20 pages. Madras, India: Government Press, 1916.

Government documents are often uninteresting, and hospital statistics may be of little value to science. But this pamphlet is exceptional in both respects. The administrative portion affords useful hints to any one who carries on an ophthalmic hospital. The statistics

of diseases treated and operations done are supplemented by a few pages of scientific matter of high value.

For instance, the importance of consanguinity is brought out in connection with statistics of optic atrophy and retinitis pigmentosa. Of the former 76 per cent were children of first cousins; of the latter 72 per cent. Consanguineous marriages seem to be extremely common in Madras. Thus among 434 patients it was found that 60 per cent were children of first cousins; and from the Government Immigration Depot, statistics showed 51 per cent were the children of first cousins. The departure from practice in the Western Hemisphere is illustrated by the statistics of 350 cases in which couching had been done for cataract by the native couchers.

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Emanuel, C. Anatomic Finding in Angiomatosis of Retina (Von Hippel's Disease). (Graefe's Archiv für Ophthalmologie, vol. 90, page 344.)

The left eye of a 2-year-old boy was removed after the development of secondary glaucoma, the diagnosis of the primary condition being retinal glioma. Microscopic examination showed changes in the detached retina, consisting of hemorrhages into the tissues, exudation, in places leading to cyst formation, extensive homogeneous degeneration of the retinal tissue and the formation of homogeneous deposits in the subretinal space. The degeneration was in the outer layers of

the peripheral portion of the retina. There was also a proliferation in relation with the blood vessels of the ciliary body, consisting of rounded, mostly nodular deposits on the pigment epithelium, largely composed of capillary vessels, with intermediate deposits of endothelial cells. The process was interpreted generally as being primarily an angiomatosis, on the one hand showing itself in the formation of angiomata on the ciliary body; and on the other hand as a tumor-like increase in length of the arteries and veins in the peripheral, ordinarily more or less avascular parts of the retina. The basis of the new growth was probably present at birth; the probability of a congenital foundation for angiomatosis of the retina being thus increased.

Krusius, F. F. Early Recognition of Refractive Anomalies in School Hygiene. (Graefe's Archiv für Ophthalmologie, vol. 90, page 329.)

The paper is based upon the examination of 3,710 pupils of the Prussian higher educational institutions. Comparison of the periods before and after puberty showed a moderate increase in the number of cases of astigmatism from 20.6 to 34.5 per cent. Myopia, on the other hand, showed an advance of 15.1 per cent in the former to 33.2 per cent in the latter half of the school age. The proportion of students requiring glasses increased from 25.5 per cent in the former to 36.3 per cent in the latter period. In the "Gymnasium" only 48.4 per cent of those needing them wore glasses, while in the "Realschule" only 31.4 per cent were so provided out of those needing glasses.

Krückmann, E. Method for Removal of Laminar Cataract. (Graefe's Archiv für Ophthalmologie, vol. 90, page 322.)

A one-edged discission knife is entered subconjunctivally and carried through the anterior chamber to the center of the dilated pupil. The point is then raised to the upper margin of the pupil, and the anterior lens capsule is torn in the vertical meridian, aiming merely at thorough opening of the capsule. The point of the knife is then pushed in the horizontal diameter to or even a little behind the nasal margin of the iris, and the knife edge is turned backward and carried directly into the lens. A large cross-cut is thus made in the lens capsule and a horizontal cut in the anterior cortex. The point of the knife is next carried back of the lamellar cataract from the temporal end of the horizontal incision, and the cataract pried into the anterior chamber. In the latter position, sometimes with the knife edge turned forward, the cataract is cut up into a number of pieces. After a few days a subconjunctival incision is made with a lance knife, and by appropriate movement of the tip of the lance the cataractous masses are still further broken up. It thus becomes possible to remove the lens substance through a relatively small incision, and the operation has the further advantage of shortening the duration of treatment.

Rolandi, S. Atrophic Change in Corneal Epithelium After Cataract Extraction. (Annali di Ottalmologia, v. 44, p. 15.)

Cataract extraction with a conjunctival bridge was performed on the left eye of a woman of 75 years, whose general health was good. After twenty-four hours striate opacities of the kind commonly observed after cataract extraction were seen in the upper part of the cornea, but these had disappeared within seventy-two hours. Four days after the operation the central part of the cornea presented a perfectly circular zone of ulceration 4 mm. in diameter, the center of which corresponded with the center of the cornea. The margin of the ulcer was perfectly sharp and the wall smooth and vertical. The sur-

face of the ulcer was constituted by the superficial layers of the proper substance of the cornea. The striate opacities in the upper part of the cornea reappeared. The sensibility of the cornea was completely abolished throughout. Two days later the ulcerated zone reached a diameter of 6 mm. but maintained its geometric form and sharp margin.

In the course of the next few days the ulcer gradually diminished in area, and the sensibility of the cornea was partially re-established. A number of secondary striae developed deep in the cornea, and the original striae extended to beyond the lower edge of the ulcerated area. Fluorescein stained not only the ulcerated area, but gradually diffused throughout the whole parenchyma of the cornea. In ten days the ulcer was completely covered by new epithelium, which at first appeared markedly opaque but gradually became transparent. The sensibility of the cornea was gradually restored, at first in the periphery, and later in the center, although in this region recovery of sensibility was incomplete after more than three weeks. At the end of this time the visual acuity was one-tenth. While admitting the possibility of a mechanical injury having played a part in the formation of the central ulcer, the author remarks that the action of such an injury must have been purely secondary, the primary factor being a trophic disturbance due to altered nerve function.

Rolandi, S. Tuberculous Granuloma of Conjunctiva. (Annali di Ottalmologia, v. 44, p. 26.)

The patient was a woman of 18 years. A granuloma of the size of a pea was attached to the tarsal conjunctiva, near the external third of the lower lid. The attachment was narrow, so that the growth appeared pedunculated. The surface of the growth was uniformly smooth. The granuloma was removed surgically, and the wound healed normally in the course of a few days. Typical tuberculous structures having been found in the granuloma, the patient was given an intradermic injection of tuberculin. In the night between the first and second days after the injection she developed symptoms of a right-sided pleurisy, which from its clinical course was regarded as tuberculous. Since the conjunctiva had undergone no injury from a foreign body, and in view of the tuberculous pleurisy which developed, the existence of a tuberculous granuloma in a perfectly healthy conjunctiva is explained by the author as being due to the carrying of a tubercle bacilli through the blood current from tuberculous foci latent in the organism.

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Printed by Western Newspaper Union